

CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH FEBRUARY 2017:

President Richard West opened the meeting at 19.45 hours and welcomed the 15 members present. Richard introduced the speakers **Janet & Nick Nelson** from the Hereford & Mid-Wales Philatelic Society whose presentation was on **Aspects of Brazil**.



The meeting began with a Brazilian drink – ice, lime and a 39% proof spirit – provided by Janet (she is the one with the shorts worn by the Brazilian football team) and Nick. Brazil was the second country after Great Britain to issue stamps. The first stamps nicknamed ‘bulleyes’ were first produced in 1843. Sets of all definitive stamps of Brazil were on show with stamps, blocks, perforation varieties, errors, miniature sheets and a few covers.

The second half featured a number of commemorative stamps. One particular set was a scratch and smell stamp – by rubbing the bottom corner of the stamp you could smell burning wood, a warning about the dangers of forest fires. A set of stamps about the anti-aids campaign included a stamp featuring a condom – is this a first for philately? Brazil produces personalised stamps (like our Smilers). Janet was shown on a Brazilian beach in a brief pair of shorts and in another was a picture of cattle with the heading ‘Hereford & Mid-Wales Philatelic Society’.

A most interesting and varied display given with great enthusiasm. Members enjoyed viewing the display and drinking their Brazilian drink with two straws – one green and the other yellow. President Richard thanked Janet and Nick for an entertaining experience and the meeting closed at 21.45 hours.